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The X-MEN™ FEATURING:

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CYCLOPS AND MARVEL GIRL

WHAT WAITS... WITHIN THE HIVE?

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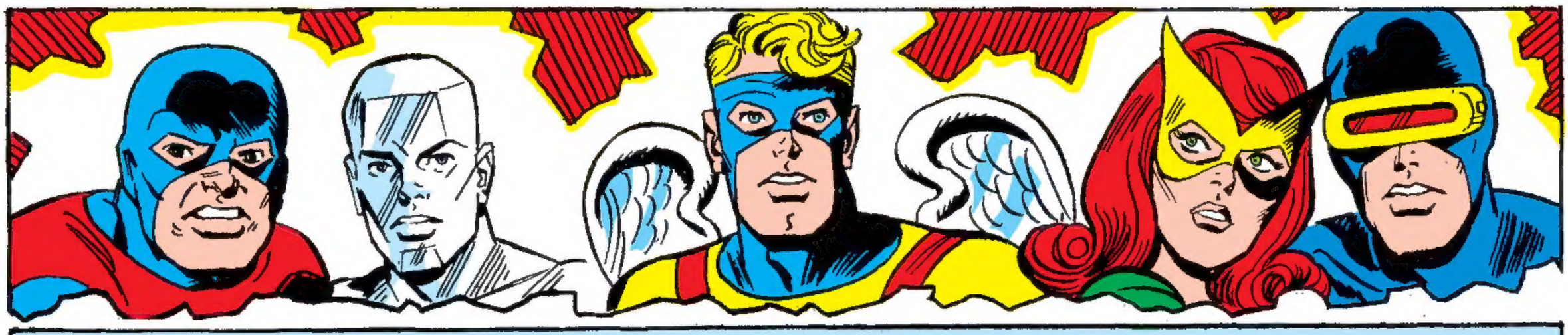

X-MEN THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME!

BEWARE COMPUTO COMMANDER OF THE ROBOT HIVE!

CARLO, YOU ORDERED *FOUR* MODELS FOR THIS BEACHWEAR JOB--AND YOU'VE JUST USED ONLY THE *NEW ONE, JEAN GREY!* WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT *HER?*

SHE'S *FRESH*, BOSS LADY! LIKE AN EASTER BUNNY, OR AN OVEN-HOT BISCUIT! AND THAT'S THE NAME OF OUR *GAME!*

HE'S GOT A *POINT* THERE, CANDY! THAT'S THE TASTIEST PACKAGE OF *GOODIES* WE'VE OPENED AROUND HERE IN MONTHS!

CLICK!

OKAY, JEAN, LOWER THE EYES JUST A SMIDGE--THAT'S IT-- THE *SLEEPY-EYE* LOOK --TAKE A DEEP BREATH--

ZAM! THAT'S A *WINNER!*

CHIEF DATA PROCESSOR: **STAN LEE**
SCRIPTOGRAPHER: **ARNOLD DRAKE**
PENCIL PUSHERS: **DON HECK** AND **WERNER ROTH**
PEN PAL: **JOHN VERPOORTEN**
LETTER BUG: **I. WATANABE**

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NOW GIVE ME THE LONG-AGO-AND-FAR-AWAY ***LOOK!***

PERFECT!

THAT'S BECAUSE I'M THINKING OF MY ***OWN*** PAST--THE WONDERFUL WORLD-THAT-WAS, WITH THE X-MEN AND PROF. XAVIER!

BUT THAT FANTASTIC ***FAMILY*** OF ***SUPER BEINGS*** IS JUST A MEMORY NOW!

THE PROFESSOR ***SACRIFICED*** HIMSELF TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THAT SUB-HUMAN BEING, GROTESK!* AND THE X-MEN WERE FORCED TO ***SPLIT UP!***

HANK AND BOBBY TO CALIFORNIA, SCOTT AND MYSELF TO NEW YORK AND WARREN AS A ***ROVING AGENT!***

FEDERAL AGENTS ***ORDERED*** US TO SPREAD OUR ACTIVITIES!

*THE GROTESQUE DETAILS APPEARED IN ISH NO. 42! --SORROWFUL STAN.

THIS MODELING CAREER WAS AN ***EXCUSE*** TO THE FOLKS FOR CONTINUING TO REMAIN AWAY! SO NOW I'VE LOST ***TWO*** FAMILIES!

WE NEED SOME HIGHLIGHTS ON JEAN'S HAIR! GIMME A ***BABY SPOT,*** JOE! ***HURRY!***

NEVER MIND, YOU ***DODO!*** I'LL DO IT ***MYSELF!***

WHOOSH!

ARRRGH!

THE LAMP--IT'S ***FALLING*** ON ME!

AYEEEE!

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INSTANTLY, JEAN'S *TELEKINETIC* POWERS ENMESH THE FALLING LAMP IN MENTAL ENERGY!

WHUH WHUH! WHUH WHUH

WO'ING!

I'LL DELAY IT JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR HIM TO GET OUT FROM UNDER! HOPE THEY DON'T *SUSPECT* ME!

INCREDIBLE!

IT SEEMED TO STOP IN *MID-AIR* FOR A SPLIT-SECOND! JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO GRAB IT!

THAT'S THE THIRD NEAR-DISASTER TO MISS US WHILE YOU'RE ON THE JOB, JEAN! *YOU* MUST BE OUR GOOD LUCK CHARM!

AND *WE* MUST SHOW OUR APPRECIATION.

AS *HALF-OWNER* OF CANDY'S STUDIO, I SPECIALIZE IN REPAYING *FAVORS!* SHALL WE SAY--DINNER AT *EIGHT?*

NO! LET'S SAY-- *PISTOLS AT DAWN!* OR WOULD YOU PREFER *FLASH BULBS* AT 200 PACES!

SCOTT! YOU'RE ALMOST AN *HOUR* EARLY!

A HUNK OF MALE LIKE THAT IS *NEVER* TOO EARLY!

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NEED A *LITTLE* HELP ON THE NEW JOB--

--BUT I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE GONNA REQUIRE THE WHOLE *U.S. MARINES!*

NOW, SIR, IF DUELING AT DAWN WOULD *UNDULY* INTERRUPT YOUR *BEAUTY* SLEEP, I'D BE *QUITE* WILLING TO ACCOMMODATE YOU--

--LIKE *NOW!*

WOINNG!

HOLD IT, *DARK EYES!* IT WASN'T AS BAD AS IT LOOKED!

IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN, LADY--OR THEY'D HAVE *RAIDED* THE JOINT!

BESIDES, WHAT'S A *LEE MARVIN* TYPE LIKE YOU DOING LOWERING THE BOOM ON MR. DANE?

YEAH! THAT'S LIKE LOADING A PLANE WITH H-BOMBS TO GO *RABBIT* HUNTING!

WATCH IT, GIRLS!

BEFORE YOU START PLANNING ANY *SAFARIS*, KNOW *THIS* -- YOU'RE *POACHING* ON MY *PRESERVE!*

AND YOU'RE HUNTING *WAY* OUT OF SEASON!

HEY, *JUNGLE JEAN*, DOES THE *HUNTED* HAVE ANY-THING TO SAY HERE?

JUST *ONE* WORD-- *BYE-BYE!*

AT THAT MOMENT, IN A SUBTERRANEAN STRUCTURE THAT DEFIES THE *WILDEST* OF SATANIC IMAGININGS...

ATTENTION, CYBERNETIC AGENTS 114, 78 AND 19-8! THE *REVIVA-RAY* IS ACTIVATED! YOU WILL AWAKEN FROM YOUR *ELECTRONIC HIBERNATION!*

ALL POWER CELLS FULL-OPEN TO *INTAKE!*

PREPARE FOR TOTAL *RE-ENERGIZING!*

THIS IS A *Z-ALERT!* PREPARE TO STRIKE THE FINAL BLOW FOR YOUR CREATOR AND MASTER-- *COMPUTO!*

CRRRZZ!

THE ULTRA-HIGH FREQUENCY RADIO WAVES BOMBARD THREE OF THE FANTASTIC AUTOMATONS WITH *NEW LIFE!*

CRRZZZ!

CRAZZZ!

CRAZZZ!

AND GREAT BEAMS OF CRACKLING MAGNETIC ENERGY LOWER THE ROBOTS TO THEIR *ATTACK STATIONS!*

WE ARE YOURS TO COMMAND, GREAT *COMPUTO!*

YEEE

I'D SAY WE GAVE A ***PRETTY*** GOOD PERFORMANCE, SCOTT!

RIGHT, YOU'VE GOT A PERFECT ***COVER*** NOW! SMALLTOWN GIRL WITH BIG JOB--AND ***JEALOUS*** BOY FRIEND!

BUT HOW ABOUT YOU? ***YOU'LL*** NEED A GOOD FRONT, TOO!

RELAX! I JUST ***GOT*** ONE!

HOW EXCITING! WHAT ***IS*** IT? SOMETHING ***BRAINY,*** I'LL BET! WELL, COME ON--***GIVE!***

I'LL DO BETTER THAN THAT--I'LL LET YOU ***HEAR*** IT ON THIS TRANSISTOR SET!

RADIO?! WHAT IN THE--?

THIS IS SCOTT SUMMERS, YOUR RADIO CORRESPONDENT, WITH THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF ***INSIDE*** REPORTS ON CITY HALL!

HOW ***GOOD*** IS THE ***GOOD GOVERNMENT*** ADMINISTRATION OF MAYOR VAN CLETE? WE'LL SPEND THIS WEEK UNRAVELING THAT POLITICAL PUZZLE!

A RADIO REPORTER! ***MARVELOUS!*** B--BUT HOW CAN YOU BE BROADCASTING ***NOW?***

THE WONDER OF ***TAPE RECORDING,*** HONEY! I DID THIS ***THREE HOURS*** AGO--BUT IT'S JUST GOING OUT OVER THE AIR WAVES ***NOW!***

IT SURE BEATS PUNCHING A ***TIME CLOCK!***

BUT, IF THE MAYOR HAS ***KEPT*** FEW CAMPAIGN PROMISES, HE'S ***BROKEN***--NONE! PERHAPS BECAUSE HE'S DONE--***NOTHING!***

THIS JOB PUTS ME CLOSE TO ***WHERE IT'S AT!*** THE NEWS ROOM KEEPS ME IN TOUCH WITH ***EVERYTHING!*** WHICH IS GOOD FOR OUR ***UNDERCOVER*** PURPOSES!

AND YOU GET YOUR ***HANDS*** ON THE VERY LATEST ***POP*** RECORDINGS LIKE THIS NEW GROUP--THE ***CHOCOLATE COVERED ASHCAN!***

THAT NEW TRANSMITTER THEY'RE UNLOADING WILL GIVE US 50,000 WATTS! IT USES VACUUM TUBES AS BIG AS A MAN! THAT IS ***ONE*** LARGE ***PEANUT WHISTLE!***

FANTASTIC! SPENDING 20,000 WATTS TO BROADCAST ***THAT!*** AND ***LOOK!***

BUT THE POWER OF THAT ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT IS ***NOT*** CONFINED TO MERE ***INNOCENT*** APPLICATIONS--

--AND THOSE WHO ***SEEK*** ITS POWER ARE VESSELS OF MORE THAN ***FLESH*** AND ***BLOOD!***

THE DOOR OF THE SECOND TRUCK SWINGS OPEN, *REVEALING* A TERRIFYING TRIO!

DROP THAT EQUIPMENT AND RUN-- IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES!

H--H--HOLY COW! WHAT'S 'AT?

ACE MOVERS

YOU SHALL LEARN THE *HARD* WAY--THROUGH THE DEADLY WAYS OF *ULTRASONIC* ENERGY!

CRZZZ

H--H--HOLY H--HANNAH! TH--THE T--T--TRUCK! IT'S SH--SH--SHAKIN' APART!

WHUH! WHUH! WHUH!

WHUH! WHUH! WHUH!

WHOOOOM!!

F4

FIRST, SOUND WAVES WITH THE KICK OF AN ELEPHANT! AND NOW--WHAT'S THAT? LIKE A SUDDEN HURRICANE!

THE BLAST IS COMING FROM THAT FISH-FACED ROBOT! I'LL CLOSE HIS MOUTH FOR HIM!

KRAK!

YOU HAVE GAINED ONLY A BRIEF VICTORY OVER MY BROTHER CYBERTRON! BUT NOW YOU SHALL FEEL THE SEARING CARESS OF MY THERMAL HANDS!

GOOD TRY-- BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO TRY HARDER!

BAWAMMMM!

VWOOOOSH!

NOW YOU ARE CORNERED! AND THIS TIME THERE WILL BE NO ESCAPE FOR YOU FROM MY DEADLY THERMAL TOUCH!

8

CORRECTION! THERE'S NO ESCAPE FOR *YOU*-- FROM MY *OPTIC BLASTS!*

BUT THE *WEIRD-MOUTHED ROBOT* IS NOW HEARD FROM--

--ACTIVATING ITS *MIGHTY* INTERNAL *BELLOWS* TO *INHALE* A ROARING COLUMN OF AIR!

INCREDIBLY, CYCLOPS IS SWEPT FROM HIS FEET!

ARRRRRRRRRGH!

WOOOOOOOOSH!

ZAWOOOOOOOOM!

THEN, AS THE ROBOT JUST AS VIOLENTLY *EXHALES*--

BAWAAA

I-I-I'VE GOT HIM, CYKE! I'VE G-G-GOT HIM!

BUT, I CAN'T HOLD HIM UP THERE F-FOR LONG!

THANKS, MARVEL GIRL! THAT'S ALL THE HELP I REALLY NEEDED! I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE!

ONE GOOD BLAST OF MY OPTIC POWER SHOULD TAKE CARE OF IT!

BLAM

CYKE--LOOK!

THE ULTRA-SONIC ROBOT IS USING ITS SOUND ENERGY TO ESCAPE! BUT I'LL STOP HIM!

NO! HOLD IT, MARVEL GIRL! I'VE GOT ANOTHER PLAN!

CRNNNR

THAT PSYCHIC POWER PROFESSOR XAVIER HELPED YOU TO DEVELOP BEFORE HE DIED--CAN YOU USE IT TO TRAIL SOMEONE BY HIS MENTAL PATTERN?

YES! BUT THIS IS AN ELECTRONIC BRAIN WE'RE UP AGAINST! IT MIGHT NOT WORK! WAIT! I'M STARTING TO GET PSYCHIC EMANATIONS!

YES! I'VE GOT A CLEAR *MIND-PRINT* NOW! AND, IF WE *KEEP* IT WITHIN RANGE--

--WE CAN FOLLOW IT LIKE A RADIO *HOMING* SIGNAL RIGHT TO HIS HIDEOUT!

JEAN, ARE YOU *SURE* THIS IS THE PRECISE SPOT THAT THE ROBOT BRAIN WAVES LED YOU TO?

ABSOLUTELY! BUT, I'M JUST AS CONFUSED BY IT AS YOU, SCOTT! THERE'S NOTHING HERE BUT A HUGE SAND PIT! NOW WHAT IN THE WORLD--?

ON SECOND THOUGHT, JUST *WHY* IS A WORK SITE LIKE THIS SO DEAD IN THE MIDDLE OF A BUSINESS DAY? COME ON--

APEX SAND AND GRAVEL CO., INC.

--LET'S HAVE A LOOK-SEE!

THIS PILE OF SAND MIGHT NOT BE QUITE SO *INNOCENT* AS IT LOOKS!

ZZZZ NNNNN ZZZZ HAM!

WHAT CAN YOU *HIDE* IN A SANDPILE--BESIDES A COUPLE OF KIDS AND A BEACHBALL?

OKAY--THE DOOR'S OPEN!

TUNNELS!

IT'S REMINISCENT OF THE *CARLSBAD* CAVERNS!

APPARENTLY, THAT SAND AND GRAVEL *OPERATION* UP TOP IS A *COVER* FOR THIS CHAIN OF TUNNELS!

BUT WHAT'S AT THE *END* OF THE *CHAIN?*

THERE'S OUR ANSWER! IT'S LIKE A ROBOT *WITCHES' CIRCLE!*

I--I DON'T BELIEVE IT, SCOTT! I JUST *CAN'T* BELIEVE IT!

CYBERTRON 19-B, YOU HAVE FAILED IN YOUR DUTY TO COMPUTO! FOR THIS, THERE IS BUT ONE ANSWER!

YOU KNOW THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE, 19-B! SEE--COMPUTO FORMS THE ENERGY BRIDGE! ADVANCE!

IS THERE ANY DEFENSE FOR FAILURE CYBERTRON?

NONE, MASTER! I DESERVE THE ONLY FATE DECREED FOR IMPERFECTION!

THEN LET IT BE SO! CYBERTRON 19-B IS CONDEMNED TO BE CANCELLED!

IN THE NAME OF COMPUTO, I ABANDON YOU TO THE AUTOMATIC CANCELLER! SO THAT FROM YOUR DISMEMBERED SCRAPS THERE SHALL RISE ANOTHER AND BETTER CYBERTRON!

LONG LIVE--

COMPUTO!

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

BIO-SENSOR NO.3 REPORTS HUMAN INTRUDERS!

THIS IS A Z-ALERT! REPEAT--Z-ALERT!

INSTANTANEOUSLY ACTIVATE ALL CELLS OF THE CYBERTRON HIVE!

REPEAT--INSTANTANEOUS ACTIVATION OF ALL CELLS!

HERE THEY COME! MARVEL GIRL! WE'VE REALLY GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US THIS TIME!

TH--THERE'S A WHOLE ARMY OF THEM, CYCLOPS! I'M NOT SURE EVEN WE CAN HANDLE THAT!

CRACK!

DO **NOT** UNDERESTIMATE THE GIRL! SHE HAS ***INFINITE*** MENTAL POWERS!

IT IS ***TRUE*** COMPUTO! ALREADY SHE HAS BLOCKED OUR PATH WITH A WALL OF ***BRAIN ENERGY!***

AND THAT'S JUST FOR ***STARTERS!***

WE'RE TAKING A ***TERRIBLE*** TOLL ON THEM! BUT IT'S NOT ***ENOUGH!*** FOR EVERY ***ONE*** WE DESTROY--

--***THREE*** MORE REPLACE THEM! IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY ***SWAMP*** US!

AND THIS, IS FOR ***FINISHERS!*** I STEP UP THE KINETIC INTENSITY--

--AND THEN, ***SLAM IT HOME!***

AAAA

THERE HE IS! NOW TO ZERO IN ON HIM WITH MY OPTIC POWER! AND IT BETTER WORK *FAST!*

--BECAUSE THOSE CYBERTRONS ARE *CLOSING IN* ON ME!

VA

BL

AM!

BULL'S-EYE!

BUT THE METAL SHELL IS *TOUGHER* THAN I THOUGHT! THAT SHOT DIDN'T EVEN *SLOW* IT DOWN!

GOT TO KEEP HITTING IT *OVER* AND *OVER!* TILL I STRIKE A *NERVE!*

AND THEY'RE *ALMOST* ON TOP OF ME NOW! ONLY TIME FOR *ONE* MORE SHOT!

THERE SHE GOES! SHE'S *WEAKENING!* IT'S GETTING READY TO...*BLOW!*

KA

BO

OM!

THERE THEY *GO,* MARVEL GIRL! ONCE WE BLEW OUT THE *COMMAND POST,* THEY FELL LIKE *TENPINS!*

YES, BUT *WHAT* WAS THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BEHIND THEM? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS JUST ANOTHER *MACHINE!*

YOU ARE *RIGHT,* MARVEL GIRL! NO ORDINARY MACHINE OR COMMON BRAIN COULD HAVE COMMANDED--*COMPUTO!*

ONLY THE *LIVING* PRODUCT OF MAN *AND* MACHINE--ALL HUMAN *KNOWLEDGE* COMBINED WITH ELECTRONIC *SPEED*--COULD DEVELOP SUCH *GENIUS!*

AND THERE IS BUT ONE SUCH ENTITY IN ALL THE UNIVERSE--

*I--QUASIMODO!**

*SURELY YOU REMEMBER OLD *QUASIMOTIVATIONAL-DESTRUCT-ORGAN!*

--OL' STAN.

THIS DEFEAT IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE! WHAT QUASIMODO HAS DONE ONCE, HE CAN DO AGAIN! BUT YOU SHALL NOT LIVE TO SEE IT!

FOR I WILL NOW UNLEASH THE POWER OF--

--A VAST UNDERGROUND RIVER! AND I ALONE SHALL ESCAPE--

--THROUGH THE EMERGENCY EXIT PLANNED FOR THIS MOMENT!

WHOOSH!

THE DOOR LOCKED BEHIND HIM! AND THE ENTRY WE USED WILL BE SWAMPED IN ANOTHER SECOND!

A SECOND IS ALL I NEED, SCOTT!

FOLLOW ME!

SLOOOOSH!

WHAT GOOD IS A GIRL WITH THE POWER OF LEVITATION IF SHE CAN'T USE IT TO SAVE A PAL!

--TO SAY NOTHING OF SAVING HERSELF! HANG ON, CYCLOPS-- THIS IS GOING TO BE QUITE A RIDE!

I WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR MY LIFE--AND THAT'S JUST ABOUT WHAT IT WOULD COST ME!

CLOSE CALL, JEAN! NOW I'LL SEAL THE PASSAGE TO PREVENT THE RIVER FROM FLOODING THE COUNTRYSIDE!

ZAMMM!

WELL, THAT ENDS THE THREAT OF QUASIMODO-- FOR NOW!

THAT'S ALL WE CAN EVER ASK FOR, JEAN! EVIL IS AS RECURRENT--

--AS THE CATACLYSMIC UPHEAVALS OF NATURE THAT CONVULSE OUR PLANET FROM TIME-TO-TIME!

I HOPE WE'LL ALWAYS FACE THE UNKNOWN TOGETHER, SCOTT!

THE HEAT IS REALLY ON BEAST AND ICEMAN NEXT ISH... WHEN THEY FACE THE FURY OF METOXO the LAVA MAN!

ANOTHER EXCITING PAGE FROM THE X-FAMILY ALBUM!

Welcome, dear reader: To the edifying and scintillating saga of Yours truly The Beast!

THE *ESSENCE* OF THE *STRANGE* POWERS WITH WHICH NATURE HAS ENDOWED ME--

--CAN BE FOUND IN MY *PEDAL* AND *DIGITAL EXTREMITIES!*

IN OTHER WORDS, KEEP YOUR EYES ON MY *HANDS* AND *FEET!*

BECAUSE THESE HANDS ARE MORE THAN *HANDY*--

--AND THESE FEET ARE UN*DEFEATABLE!*

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THE GREATEST ADVANTAGE OF PEDAL DEXTERITY IS ***SUPER LOCOMOTION*** --***SPEED***, THAT IS!

THEN, TOO, IT'S ***MODERATELY*** USEFUL TO BE ABLE TO ***BOUND*** OVER BOULDERS AND ***BOUNCE*** OFF BUILDINGS--LIKE A ***RED-BLOODED RAINDROP!***

OF COURSE, PERFECTING SUCH FANCY ***FOOTWORK*** REQUIRED ARDUOUS PERIODS OF ***PAINFUL*** PRACTICE IN PROFESSOR XAVIER'S ***DANGER ROOM!***

COMBINING THE ***SUPERIOR STRENGTH*** AND ***FREAKISH FLEXIBILITY*** OF MY FINGERS AND TOES--

--ALLOWS ME TO ASCEND TO THE SUMMIT OF EVEN THE SMOOTHEST OF TOWERING STRUCTURES, NOT WITHOUT A MODICUM OF ***RISK***, OF COURSE!

BUT IF--

I ***USE***--

EVERY MUSCLE--

EXPERTLY--

--I CAN ***ABSORB*** THE ***IMPACT*** OF FALLS FROM GREAT HEIGHTS LIKE SO MANY HUGE ***COIL SPRINGS!***

A TRICK THAT MIGHT HAVE PREVENTED ***HUMPTY DUMPTY*** FROM BECOMING A ***SCRAMBLED EGG!***

BWUMP!

IN ADDITION, BY UNCOILING THOSE *SAME* SINEWY SPRINGS, I CAN LAND ON ANY *TROUBLE SPOT* WITH--

--ALL THE FURY AND FORCE OF A TEN-TON TRUCK, WHICH WOULD ERASE ANY *SPOT!*

LAMENTABLY, RHETORIC IS OFT LESS *PERSUASIVE* THAN SHEER *BRUTE FORCE!*

KWOOOMP!

AND FOR TOTAL VICTORY, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A *FACEFUL* OF FISTS! PARTICULARLY WHEN THOSE FISTS ARE AS BIG AS *TWELVE POUND HAMS--*

--AND THE *BICEPS* BEHIND THEM PACK THE *PUNCH* OF A *PISTON* IN A BATTLE-SHIP ENGINE ROOM!

SOMETIMES I WONDER WHICH SHOULD I VALUE MOST? MY *INTELLECTUAL* LEANINGS OR MY PHYSICAL PROPEN-SITIES?

WHAT!

OWWWWF!

AND HERE IS THE *STAR* OF OUR SHOW! WHAT SIZE ARE THEY, YOU ASK? WELL, I'M A BIT SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT STATISTICS, BUT--

--I'LL ADMIT THAT I CAN WEAR MOST SHOE *BOXES* EASIER THAN MOST *SHOES!*

SURPRISINGLY ENOUGH, MY FEET ALSO HAVE A *FLAIR* FOR COORDINATION AND *FINE WORK!* ACTUALLY--

Bella

--I CAN EVEN TYPE WITH THEM, EXCEPT THAT THEY *SOMETIMES* GET CAUGHT IN THE RIBBON!

AND WHEN I PUT ***BOTH*** EXTREMITIES TO WORK, I CAN WIRE A BANK OF ***COMPLICATED*** ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS FASTER THAN YOU CAN SAY-- ***THOMAS EDISON!***

ENOUGH ABOUT THE FOOT FEATS! YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT MY ***MONUMENTAL MITTS*** ARE ALSO CAPABLE OF ***DELICATE*** DETAIL!

DESIGNING DARING NEW ***DEVICES,*** IN FACT, IS ONE OF MY ***VERY*** FAVORITE PASTIMES! I HAVE SOME 37 ***U.S. PATENTS*** TO DATE!

I'VE EVEN INVENTED A MACHINE THAT CAN OPEN ***POP-CORN*** BAGS NOISELESSLY IN ***MOVIE*** HOUSES! THERE'S ONE MINOR FLAW--

--THE MACHINE TAKES UP ***THREE*** ROWS OF THE ***THEATRE!***

THE ***ARTS*** HAVE ALWAYS FASCINATED ME AS WELL! PERHAPS YOU HAVE MADE NOTE OF A CERTAIN REFINEMENT IN MY SPEECH--

--WHICH IS A CONSEQUENCE OF LONG HOURS SPENT DELVING THROUGH ***SHAKESPEARE, PLATO, TOLSTOY, McLUHAN,*** AND, UH...***THOR!***

SCIENCE
MATH
HISTORY
SHAKESPEA
VOLTAIRE
PROUST
HOMER

SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ATTRACTED TO THE ***FINEST*** EXPRESSIONS OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE! ANYONE WHO WON'T EXPOSE HIMSELF TO THE CLASSICS--

--IS SQUANDERING HIS ***GREATEST*** INHERITANCE! AND I MEAN TO PINCH EVERY PENNY OF MINE!

SPREADING MY INTERESTS THUSLY HAS ONE INHERENT DISADVANTAGE! IT KEEPS ME FROM DECIDING PRECISELY WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH MY LIFE AND EVERY TIME I THINK I'M ABOUT READY TO MAKE THAT BIG DECISION--

--I GET THAT CLARION CALL TO ACTION! THAT CRY THAT SAYS SOMEONE SOMEWHERE NEEDS A BIG HELPING HAND--AND FOOT!

WHICH SENDS ME WHIZZING INTO MY X-MAN REGALIA!

AND SO, ONCE MORE, I ***BOUND*** OVER ALL OBSTACLES AND ***DEFY*** ALL DANGERS TO OFFER ***SUCCUR*** TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE!

CHAPS WITH FEEBLE FINGERS AND TALENTLESS TOES, WHOSE ONLY ***ADVANTAGES*** OVER ME IS THAT--

--THEY CAN BUY THEIR SHOES AND GLOVES EVEN FROM A MAIL ORDER CATALOGUE--AND GET ***FITTED!***

BUT ANY TIME I BECOME EVEN ***MILDLY*** DEPRESSED BY THESE STRANGE ***BODY MEMBERS*** OF MINE--

--I JUST ***CLIMB*** THE NEAREST WALL, UP TO WHERE THE AIR IS ***PURE*** AND ***FREE***--

--GRAB HOLD OF THE WHIZZING ***WHEEL*** OF ***LIFE*** AS IT GOES HURTLING BY--

--AND JOIN MY COMRADES IN CATACLYSMIC CONFUSION, THE ***X-MEN!*** THEY MAY NOT BE MY EQUALS IN HANDS AND FEET--BUT THEY'RE ALL ***HEART!***

The End